

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) An information processing apparatus comprising:

security hardware for storing security key information;

OS start admission means for, in response to an operating system attempting to start, determining whether or not an input data for user certification is valid ~~when an OS starts~~ based on said security key information read from said security hardware, and permitting ~~the OS~~ said operating system to start ~~if the~~ when said determination result is positive;

security key information restoration means for restoring security key information in ~~the~~ said security hardware based on predetermined data for restoration, wherein said predetermined data for restoration is generated when generating said security key information within said security hardware in order to render said security key information freely restorable and is stored in an auxiliary storage;

OS start type selection means for ~~selecting and~~ selectively executing either a first type OS start ~~for generating to generate a first~~ system status in which said security key information restoration means can operate is operable ~~(hereafter, referred to as a "first system status") and operating~~ said OS start admission means, or a ~~functionally restricted~~ second type OS start ~~for generating to generate a functionally restricted~~ second system status in which said security key information restoration means ~~is inoperable (hereafter, referred to as a "second system status") and not operating~~ cannot operate said OS start admission means;

cancellation means, generated during a ~~period of the~~ said second system status, for canceling the operation of said OS start admission means as to ~~the~~ said first type OS start; and

cancel release means for releasing cancellation of the operation of said OS start admission means by said cancellation means after ~~the~~ said first type OS start having the operation of said OS start admission means canceled by said cancellation means ~~is~~ has been executed at least once.

2. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus ~~according to~~ of Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said input data for user certification is ~~the~~ data keyed in by ~~the~~ an user on ~~the~~ said first type OS start.

3. canceled

4. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus ~~according to~~ of Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said first and second type OS starts are ~~the~~ starts based on the same OS stored in the same auxiliary storage, and when starting ~~the OS~~ said operating system, said OS start type selection means detects whether or not a predetermined user operation is performed so as to select and execute ~~the~~ said first type OS start ~~in the case of "no" and the~~ or said second type OS start ~~in the case of "yes" respectively.~~

5. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus ~~according to~~ of Claim 1, wherein ~~the~~ said first and second type OS starts are ~~the~~ starts based on ~~the OSes~~ two operating systems, each being stored in a different auxiliary storage ~~respectively,~~ and when ~~said~~ a second operating system OS is readable from ~~the~~ said auxiliary storage storing said second operating system OS, said OS start type selection means selects and executes ~~the~~ said second type OS start in preference ~~to the~~ over said first type OS start.

6. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus ~~according to~~ of Claim 1, wherein said information processing apparatus further includes ~~there is~~ erasure release means for erasing said cancel release means after said cancel release means releases the cancellation of the operation of said OS start admission means by said cancellation means.

7. (currently amended) The information processing apparatus ~~according to~~ of Claim 6, wherein said erasure means is generated by said cancel release means.